

**CLAIMS:**

1                           2.         The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 1, wherein the  
2         plurality of investors comprise a plurality of equity members that receive a portion of  
3         the return in accordance with a sharing ratio for a tax-advantaged period of the fund.

1                   3. The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 2, wherein said  
2 tax-advantaged period comprises a period of time provided by a statute for the  
3 provision of the plurality of tax credits.

1                          4. The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 2, wherein said  
2 sharing ratio comprises distribution for the tax-advantaged period of the fund in  
3 proportion to each equity member's respective capital contribution.

1                       5. The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 1, wherein the at  
2 least one lender receives repayment based on a dual tranche structure.

1                         6.      The investment fund of claim 5 wherein said dual tranche  
2      structure comprises:

3                   a first portion of the debt having a first amortization period of a fixed  
4 number of years based on the cash flow of the plurality of wind energy projects; and  
5                   a second portion of the debt having a second amortization period based  
6 in part upon the timing of the capital that is contributed from the plurality of investors.

1                      7.         The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 1, wherein said at  
2 least one lender is repaid from a portion of the cash flow from the plurality of wind  
3 energy projects and/or the capital of the tax-advantaged investment fund.

1               8.     The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 1 comprising a  
2     plurality of business entities, each business entity having an ownership interest in at  
3     least one of the plurality of wind energy projects, wherein the fund has an ownership  
4     interest in the plurality of business entities but not directly in the plurality of wind  
5     energy projects.

1               9.     The investment fund of claim 8 wherein said ownership interest  
2     in the plurality of business entities comprises a 100% ownership interest.

1               10.    The investment fund of claim 8 wherein said plurality of  
2     business entities comprise business forms that enable pass-through tax treatment.

1               11.    The investment fund of claim 1 wherein said tax-advantaged  
2     investment fund comprises a business form that enables pass-through tax treatment.

1               12.    The investment fund of claim 1 wherein said ownership interest  
2     in a plurality of wind energy projects comprises a 100% ownership interest.

1               13.    The investment fund of claim 1 wherein said plurality of  
2     investors comprise:

3               a plurality of investing members that provide a first portion of the  
4     capital, wherein said investing members receive a first shared portion of the return for  
5     the tax-advantaged years of the fund; and

6               at least one managing member that provides a second portion of the  
7     capital, wherein said at least one managing member administers the fund and receives  
8     a second shared portion of the return for the tax-advantaged years of the fund.

1               14.    The investment fund of claim 1, wherein said wind energy  
2     projects qualify for a generation of a plurality of Production Tax Credits in  
3     accordance with Subchapter 45 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended, or  
4     any successor statute thereto.

1               15.    The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 1, wherein said  
2     plurality of wind energy projects is geographically diverse.

1               16.    A tax-advantaged investment fund comprising:

2                   an ownership interest in a plurality of wind energy projects having a  
3       return comprising a cash flow distribution, an accelerated depreciation deduction, a  
4       plurality of tax credits, and residual value of the wind energy projects;

5                   equity capital for investing in said ownership interest in a plurality of  
6       business entities comprising:

7                   a plurality of investing members that provide a first portion of  
8       the equity capital, wherein said investing members receive a portion of the return in  
9       accordance with a first sharing ratio for a tax-advantaged period of the fund; and

10                  at least one managing member that provides a second portion of  
11      the equity capital, wherein said at least one managing member administers the fund  
12      and receives a portion of the return in accordance with a second sharing ratio for the  
13      tax-advantaged period of the fund; and

14                  at least one lender that provides a debt component either directly to the  
15      fund and/or one of the plurality of wind projects directly and receives a distribution  
16      from a portion of the cash flow from said wind energy projects and/or said fund.

1                  17.       The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 16, wherein said  
2       at least one lender receives repayment based on a dual tranche structure.

1                  18.       The tax-advantaged investment fund of claim 16, wherein said  
2       dual tranche structure comprises:

3                   a first portion of the debt having a first amortization period of a fixed  
4       number of years based on the cash flow of the plurality of wind energy projects; and

5                   a second portion of the debt having a second amortization period based  
6       in part upon the timing of the equity capital that is contributed from the plurality of  
7       investors.

1                  19.       A method for creating a tax-advantaged investment fund  
2       comprising:

3                   forming an entity having a business form that enables the entity to  
4       passthrough tax benefits;

5                   establishing the tax-advantaged investment fund having a plurality of  
6       investors comprising a plurality of equity members;

7                   collecting capital from the plurality of investors; and

8                   using the capital to purchase a plurality of wind energy projects having  
9    a return comprising a cash flow distribution, accelerated depreciation deduction and  
10   tax credits.

1                 20.    The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
2                   collecting a debt component from at least one lender; and  
3                   providing said debt component to said tax-advantaged investment fund  
4    to purchase a plurality of wind energy projects.

1                 21.    The method of claim 19 further comprising:  
2                   collecting a debt component from at least one lender; and  
3                   providing said debt component directly to one of a plurality of wind  
4    energy projects.

1                 22.    The method of claim 21, wherein said debt component  
2    comprises a dual tranche debt structure comprising:  
3                   a first portion of debt having a first amortization period of a fixed  
4    number of years based on the cash flow of the plurality of wind energy projects; and  
5                   a second portion of debt having a second amortization period based in  
6    part upon the timing of the capital that is contributed from the plurality of investors.

1                 23.    The method of claim 22 further comprising the act of repaying  
2    the debt component from cash flow generated by the plurality of wind energy projects  
3    and/or the capital of the fund.

1                 24.    The method of claim 19 further comprising providing the  
2    equity members a portion of the return in accordance with a sharing ratio for a tax-  
3    advantaged period of the fund.

1                 25.    The method of claim 19 further comprising an act of providing  
2    the capital to a plurality of wholly owned business entities in portions, wherein the  
3    wholly owned business entities perform the act of using the capital to purchase a  
4    plurality of wind energy projects.

1                 26.    A method for managing a tax-advantaged investment fund  
2    comprising:

1                   27. The method of claim 26 further comprising providing the  
2 equity members a portion of the return in accordance with a sharing ratio for a tax-  
3 advantaged period of the fund.

1                   28. The method of claim 26 comprising repaying the debt  
2 component from cash flow generated by the plurality of wind energy projects and/or  
3 the capital of the fund based on a dual tranche structure.

1                           29. A method for investing in a tax-advantaged investment fund  
2 comprising:

3 providing capital to the tax-advantaged investment fund for investing  
4 in a plurality of wind energy projects having a return comprising a cash flow  
5 distribution, an accelerated depreciation deduction and a plurality of tax credits; and  
6 receiving a portion of the return in accordance with a sharing ratio for  
7 a tax-advantaged period of the fund.

1                   30. The method of claim 28 comprising:  
2                   providing a debt component to the tax-advantaged investment fund for  
3 investing in said plurality of wind energy projects; and  
4                   receiving repayment of said debt component from cash flow generated  
5 by the plurality of wind energy projects and/or the capital of the fund based on a dual  
6 tranche structure.